

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

July 6, 2006

Mr. Mike Johanns, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

On July 6, 2006, I received a request for a Natural Disaster Determination (NDD) by the US Secretary of Agriculture from the Carbon County Board of Commissions.

Although the past several months have brought substantial drought relief for the majority of Montana counties, not all portions of Montana have enjoyed in this relief.

Carbon County has received substantially below normal precipitation during the winter and spring months of 2006. The continued drought conditions have negatively impacted this year's spring crop in Carbon County. In addition, the lack of moisture has resulted in extremely dry fuel conditions and very low water supplies which are contributing to wild land fire danger. The local economy has suffered including agriculture and tourism.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin to compile the necessary damage assessment information.

Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger
Nancy Peterson, Department of Agriculture
General Randall Mosley, Department of Military Affairs
Dave Maser, Disaster & Emergency Services
Randy Johnson, Farm Services Agency
Jesse Aber, Department of Natural Resource & Conservation